

(vi) In the case of schemes implemented through Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs), funds are released after obtaining the recommendations of the state Governments/ UTs and after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish annual accounts and audited reports and utilisation certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Government/UT officials, and other authorities and also by Central Government officers.

Recommendations of Board of National Trust for the welfare of persons with disabilities

4060. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first meeting of the Board of National Trust for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities was held last October;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations emerged from this meeting;
- (c) whether Government have implemented any such recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it was reported in the press that a number of subcommittees have been formed during its first meetings;
- (f) whether any programme has been identified by such subcommittees; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations emerging from the meeting are given in Statement—I (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are given in Statement—II (*See below*).

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Though no formal sub-committee was formed, it was decided to undertake wide consultations with non governmental agencies and parent's associations regarding formulation of schemes relating to setting up of care homes, training of care givers and for deciding guardianship issue.

Statement—I

Main Recommendations of Board of National Trust for the welfare of persons with disabilities

1. Preparation of scheme to set up care homes, creches and training of care givers.
2. Letters to be written to District Megistrate informing them about the National Trust and its objectives.
3. Wider consultation on guardianship issue.
4. Local level committees should be provided funds for operational expenditure.
5. Preparation of an awareness brochure in English, Hindi and other regional languages announcing the formation of the National Trust and outlining its objects.

Statement—II

Details of Implementation of Recommendations

1. Draft Schemes for setting up of care homes, creches and training of care givers have been formulated.
2. Letters have been sent by the National Trust to all the District

Magistrates of the country informing them about the National Trust.

3. Guardianship issue was discussed and incorporated in the draft regulations of the Trust, which have been formulated.
4. Rs. 6000/- per annum has been decided to be given to each of local level committee for miscellaneous expenditure.
5. Awareness brochure has been finalized.

Disabled Allowance to Handicapped Persons

4061. DR. C. NARYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in western countries disabled allowance is paid to handicapped persons under Social Security Act;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to extend similar benefit to the handicapped at least in rural areas in our country; and
- (c) if not, whether Government would consider the feasibility of introducing such a measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Government has already enacted a legislation i.e. Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Act is in force since 7.2.1996 and provides *inter-alia* that the appropriate Governments shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, shall by notification, frame a scheme for payment of an unemployment allowance to persons with disabilities registered with the Special Employment Exchange for more than two years and who could not be placed in any gainful occupation. Some States/Union Territories are implementing Schemes, including those for providing unemployment allowance and disability pension.